

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. Bacterial artificial chromosome vector characterized in that it comprises essentially the entire genome of an EHV strain.
2. The artificial chromosome vector according to claim 1, characterized in that the EHV is EHV-1.
3. The artificial chromosome vector according to claim 1, characterized in that the EHV is EHV-4.
4. The artificial chromosome vector according to claim 1, characterized in that the EHV strain is RacH.
5. The artificial chromosome vector according to claim 4, chraterized in that it is the vector with the accession No. ECACC 01032704.
6. The artificial chromosome vector according to claim 1, characterized in that the EHV strain is lacking the glycoprotein gB.
7. The artificial chromosome vector according to claim 1, characterized in that the EHV strain is lacking the glycoprotein gC.
8. The artificial chromosome vector according to claim 1, characterized in that the EHV strain is lacking the glycoprotein gD.
9. The artificial chromosome vector according to claim 1, characterized in that the EHV strain is lacking the glycoprotein gE.
10. The artificial chromosome vector according to claim 1, characterized in that the EHV strain is lacking the glycoprotein gG.
11. The artificial chromosome vector according to claim 1, characterized in that the EHV strain is lacking the glycoprotein gH.

12. The artificial chromosome vector according to claim 1, characterized in that the EHV strain is lacking the glycoprotein gI.
13. The artificial chromosome vector according to claim 1, characterized in that the EHV strain is lacking the glycoprotein gK.
14. The artificial chromosome vector according to claim 1, characterized in that the EHV strain is lacking the glycoprotein gL.
15. The artificial chromosome vector according to claim 1, characterized in that the EHV strain is lacking the glycoprotein gM.
16. The artificial chromosome vector according to claim 1, characterized in that the EHV strain is lacking the glycoprotein gp1/2.
17. A polynucleotide encoding an artificial chromosome vector, which vector is characterized in that it comprises essentially the entire genome of an EHV strain, or EHV contained in the vector.
18. A method for generating infectious EHV which comprises using an artificial chromosome vector, which vector is characterized in that it comprises essentially the entire genome of an EHV strain.
19. A method for generating infectious EHV which comprises using the polynucleotide as according to claim 18.
20. A method for generating EHV which comprises infecting a suitable cell line with the artificial chromosome vector according to claim 1, allowing the vector to replicate and shed virus, collecting the shed virus and purifying the collected virus.
21. A method for generating an attenuated EHV which comprises modifying by molecular biology techniques the EHV sequence contained in an artificial chromosome vector according to claim 1.

22. The method according to claim 22 wherein a foreign sequence of another viral, bacterial or parasitic pathogen is added to the artificial chromosome vector.
23. A method for generating a virulent EHV which comprises modifying by molecular biology techniques the EHV sequence contained in an artificial chromosome vector according to claim 1.
24. The method according to claim 23 wherein a foreign sequence of another viral, bacterial or parasitic pathogen is added to the artificial chromosome vector.